

OLD WORLD SEPSIDAE IN NORTH AMERICA, WITH A  
KEY TO THE AMERICAN GENERA  
(Diptera)

BY GEORGE STEYSKAL

*Detroit, Michigan*

SEPSIS SIMPLEX GOETGHEBUER AND BASTIN

*Sepsis simplex* Goetghebuer and Bastin, 1925, Bull. et Ann. Soc. ent. Belg., 65:128, 132, pl. 1, f. 7.

*S. simplex* Frey, 1925, Notulae Ent., 5:71-75, f. 9.

A male specimen captured on Isle Royale, Michigan, August 3-7, 1936, by Curtis W. Sabrosky, was found to agree well with

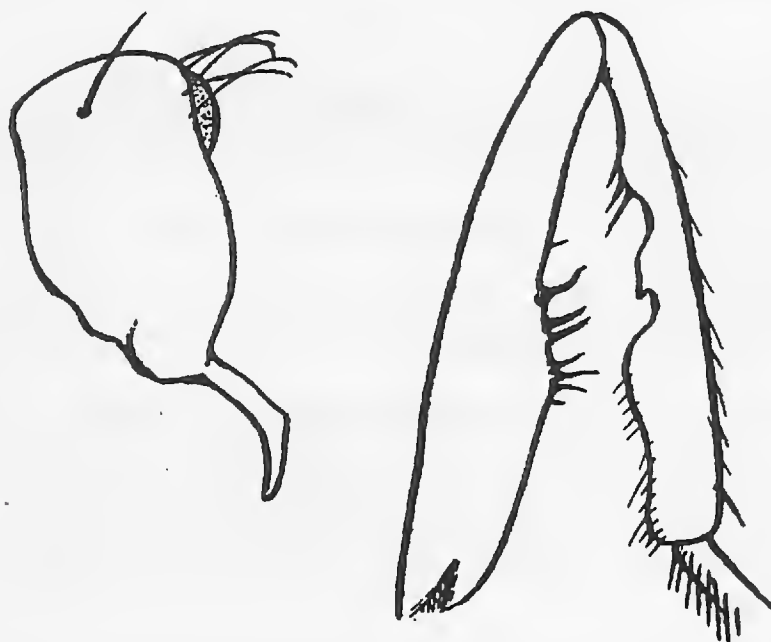


Fig. 1. *Decachaetophora aeneipes* De Meijere, left profile of hypopygium and anterior view of right fore femur and tibia of male.

the original description of *S. simplex* and with Frey's figure of the male hypopygium. The species was described from Belgium and was stated by Frey to occur throughout Finland.

DECACHAETOPHORA AENEIPES DE MEIJERE

*Sepsis aeneipes* De Meijere, 1913, Ann. Mus. Nat. Hungt., 11:119.

*Decachaetophora aeneipes* Duda, 1925, Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien, 39:27, 40 (*Decachaetophora* keyed and described); 1926, 1. c., 40:45, pl. 5, f. 54 (species described and figured).

Two male Sepsidae of a species found abundant on Iris plants

in a garden in the vicinity of White Swan, Washington (south-east of Yakima), on October 8, 1941, were kindly submitted by D. Elmo Hardy to the writer for determination. The specimens, in good condition, agree very well with De Meijere's and Duda's descriptions. Duda's figure of the fore leg of the male agrees well with our specimens, but inasmuch as no figure of the male hypopygium has been published figures of both a fore leg and the hypopygium of one of our male specimens is here given to facilitate recognition of the species and a check of its identity with Oriental material. Duda states that the scutellum is twice as long as broad, but this must be erroneous, the reverse being intended. The species has been recorded from Formosa, Japan and northern India.

#### ENICITA ANNULIPES MEIGEN

*Sepsis annulipes* Meigen, 1826, Syst. Besch., 5:292.

*Enicita annulipes* Johnson, 1925, Occas. Pap. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 7:266.

*E. annulipes* Duda, 1925, Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien, 39:70, 142, pl. 1, ff. 3, 4b.

*E. elegantipes* Ouellet, 1940, Le Naturaliste Canadien, 67:225-228, f. 1 (*new synonym*).

Comparison of paratype material of *E. elegantipes* kindly furnished by Prof. Ouellet with the detailed description and figures of Duda leaves no doubt concerning the synonymy with this European species. Johnson has recorded *E. annulipes* from Fort Kent, Maine.

For the convenience of students who may have difficulty in gaining access to the literature of the Sepsidae the following key to the American genera is given. The rather narrow generic limits of Duda are largely followed and some of the genera included may prove untenable. *Palaeosepsis* has been rejected by Malloch and Curran, but the distinction has proven useful for the separation of neotropical material.

#### KEY TO THE AMERICAN GENERA OF SEPSIDAE

1. First and second basal cells united.....  
    .....*Saltella* R.-D. (*Pandora* Hal.)  
    [One species, *S. scutellaris* Fallen, in North America.]  
    First and second basal cells separated.....2
2. Postocular and mesopleural bristles lacking (*Themira* group)..3  
    At least mesopleural bristles always present.....6

3. Humeral bristle long and strong.....*Themira* Rob.-Desv.  
 Humeral bristle lacking.....4
4. Occiput in profile shallowly rounded, front and occipital tangents crossing at a very obtuse angle; thorax dully shining.....5  
 Occiput swollen; frontal and occipital tangents crossing at almost a right angle; thoracic dorsum shining black, sometimes more or less lightly brown pruinose.....*Enicomira* Duda  
 [One species, *E. minor* Haliday.]
5. Abdomen shorter than wings; sternopleura entirely pruinose; fifth abdominal tergite of male with strong marginal bristles.  
 ..... *Enicita* Westwood  
 Abdomen longer than the short, narrow wings; sternopleura shining black; fifth tergite of male without strong marginal bristles .....*Cheligaster* Macquart  
 [One species, *C. leachi* Mg. (Europe).]
6. One strong orbital bristle on each side; abdomen of both sexes without macrochaetae .....7  
 Orbital bristle minute or absent; humeral bristle present.....9
7. Humeral bristle lacking; vibrissae duplicate; abdomen not constricted laterally between second and third segments.....  
 .....*Decachaetophora* Duda.  
 [One species, *D. aeneipes* De Meijere.]  
 Humeral bristle present .....8
8. Only one pair of strong dorsocentral bristles and one pair of strong vibrissae; abdomen without constriction between second and third segments.....*Meroplius* Rondani  
 [One species, *M. stercorarius* Rob.-Desv.]  
 Three pairs each of strong dorsocentrals and vibrissae; abdomen constricted between second and third segments.....  
 ..... *Meropliosepsis* Duda  
 [One species, *M. sexsetosa* Duda (Costa Rica).]
9. Fore femur of both sexes not emarginate, with or without bristles in rows.....10  
 Fore femur of male more or less cut out below.....11
10. Second longitudinal vein with a large, oval black spot at end; venter and mid and hind femora of male with long, thick hairs  
 ..... *Sepsidimorpha* Frey  
 [One North American species, *S. secunda* Melander and Spuler.]  
 Second longitudinal vein not spotted at end.....  
 ..... *Nemopoda* Rob.-Desv.  
 [One recognized North American species, *N. cylindrica* Fabr.]
11. Abdomen of both sexes without distinct macrochaetae, although sometimes with somewhat longer and stronger hairs on the hind margins of the tergites and strong anal bristles; end of second longitudinal vein not spotted; sternopleura pruinose only on upper border.....*Palaeosepsis* Duda.  
 Abdomen of the male, often the female also, with distinct macrochaetae; end of second longitudinal vein with a dark spot; sternopleura entirely pruinose.....*Sepsis* Fallen.